

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the Times."

The Louisiana Convention on Tuesday repealed the ordinance authorizing a sale of bonds, and adopted another, which lays a tax to meet the expenses of the Convention of one mill per cent. on all real and personal property, which tax is to be collected by the sheriffs. By another ordinance a committee was appointed to negotiate a loan to meet the immediate necessities of the Convention.

Captain Emmons, of the U. S. steamer Osage, writes to the Navy Department, from British Columbia, stating that large numbers of the inhabitants of that colony are making strenuous efforts to have it annexed in some way to the United States.

The case of Col. McArdle, who was arbitrarily imprisoned by General Ord, in command in Mississippi, but who was released under a writ of habeas corpus, is soon to come before the United States Supreme Court.

The National Democratic Resident Committee at Washington met on Monday night last, in that city, to make preparations for a vigorous prosecution of the political campaign in advance of the regular Convention.

The news received from the West Indies by telegraph and otherwise, indicates not merely a readiness, but an earnest desire, throughout all the West India Islands, for immediate annexation to the United States.

From Texas we learn that the Kickapoo Indians, after committing murders and outrages on Texan citizens living along the line of the Rio Grande, have crossed over the river into Mexico.

The report that the Spanish Government had offered to sell the Island of Cuba to the United States is declared from Havana to be without foundation.

Rich gold bearing quartz is said to have been discovered in Northwestern Arkansas, on the Red River Mountains, sixty-five miles West from Fort Smith.

The order mustering out Gen. Brown, the chief of the Freedmen's Bureau in Virginia, has been rescinded.

Foreign News.

The Fenians are represented as still active. An attempt was made by them on Monday last to destroy the Gas Works at Glasgow. On the previous night, attempts were also made to destroy the Gas Works at Warrington, near Liverpool. In both cases these attempts were unsuccessful, owing to the watchfulness of the authorities.

A grand banquet was held at the Royal Polytechnic Institution on Saturday night last. During the progress of the banquet courtesies were exchanged through the telegraph cable between the Duke of Wellington and President Johnson.

The Ministerial crisis in Italy is over. General Menabrea will continue to be Premier, but is to reorganize his Cabinet. A bill for the emancipation of the Israelites in Austria has passed the Reichsrath. The people of Formosa have promised in future to treat sailors kindly who may chance to be shipwrecked on that coast, and the Chinese Government has guaranteed that the promise shall be kept. Accounts received at London from the expedition to Abyssinia report that it was progressing favorably. The army was steadily advancing, had met with no opposition, and the people were friendly.

The war with Paraguay has been brought to a close, the Paraguayan President Lopez having suddenly yielded every point demanded by the Brazilians and their allies. He cedes the territory of Gran Chaco, the free navigation of the Parana river, and consents to exile himself from South America for the term of two years.

GARROTTING OF ROBERT BUFFUM.—A discharged soldier, named Robert Buffum, of Ohio, was robbed on Friday night of \$35, and a gold medal awarded him by Secretary Stanton for gallant services in the army as a scout.

The outrage having been reported at headquarters, yesterday, detective McDevitt arrested as the offenders two colored men, named Robert Johnson, alias John Williams, hailing from Richmond, and Samuel Green, of Cincinnati, who were committed. From the statements made, it seems that Buffum came to Washington a few days since for the purpose of getting a claim through Congress, and put up at the U. S. Hotel. Friday night he lost his way, and meeting Johnson near Maryland avenue and 3d street west, requested him to show him the way back to his hotel—having implicit faith in the friendship of the colored race.—Buffum had not proceeded very far before Johnson asked him to treat, and the two repaired to a drinking house, where Mr. B. unaccountably displayed his money. The two then came as far as 43 street bridge, when Johnson gave a peculiar whistle, which brought from an opposite direction another colored man, and they passed the canal along to 3d street, into which they turned and garrotted their victim, as above stated.—Washington Star.

EPISCOPAL JURISDICTION.—Now, when there has been so much discussion as to low church and ritualism in the pan-Anglican Synod, convulsing not only England and her colonies, but reaching even to the Episcopal churches in the First Military District, memory takes us back to a time when the question of Episcopal supremacy was most satisfactorily settled by a commodore of the American Navy.

On one occasion the chaplain of Commodore Chauncey's command in New York announced that "on the next Sunday the Bishop of the Diocese would preach to the officers and men."

Hearing this notice, the old Commodore arose with an expression of countenance in which were mingled wonder and pride, offended at such presumption in a subordinate. He called out in a voice of thunder:

"Mr. Chaplain, I would have you know that you have no right to make any such appointments; for I will let you understand, Sir, that I am the Bishop of this Diocese. You will preach next Sunday, Sir, unless I countermand the order!"—Norfolk Journal.

THE WEDDING.—Col. Eli S. Parker, of Gen. Grant's staff, was married last night to Miss Minnie Sackett, very quietly, in the parsonage of Rev. Dr. Hall. The fashionable world was not aware of the fact, however, and expected the wedding to take place publicly at the church, and consequently quite a crowd gathered to-day about the church, and were very loth to depart, even after having been informed that the marriage had actually taken place. General Grant and staff were present. A report was current that the wedding party had gone last night to New York; such is not the fact, however. They were yet in the city to-day. Miss Sackett, so-called, was not the daughter of Gen. Sackett, but a child of the late Amodio, of opera notoriety. Her mother was the widow of this opera singer, and after his death married Gen. Sackett. The newly wedded pair are the parties whose wedding was deferred by the non-appearance of the bridegroom one day last week.—Washington Star.

Gen. Schofield has appointed Brevet Lieutenant Col. George E. Higbee, Captain 14th U. S. Infantry, superintendent of registration and election, for the city of Richmond, in the place of Lieut. Paul R. Hambrick, military commissioner.

Gen. Hancock was not a member of the Military Commission which tried and condemned Mrs. Surratt to hang.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

A grey eagle measuring seven feet from tip to tip, was captured alive in Prince George, on Monday last, on the farm of Mr. Peter Birchett, by a colored boy. The boy was standing under the tree on which the eagle was sitting, when he suddenly descended and made a violent attack upon him. The boy seized him by the wings, but finding he was about to be overpowered, threw his whole body upon him and conquered the king, ere he could again attempt to "spread his wings and soar aloft."

The people along the route of the proposed railroad between Lynchburg and Danville; are responding liberally to the appeal for subscriptions in land to assist in building the road.—Col. Blackford, the president of the road, is meeting with gratifying success, the people along the line as far as Otter river, having already subscribed about three thousand acres.

During the past week two more parties of English and Scotch immigrants arrived in Lynchburg, under the auspices of the Virginia Immigration Society. They consisted of farm laborers, mechanics and domestics. Homes were provided for them in advance by the officers of the society. More are expected to arrive in a few days.

A great many of the tobacco factories in Richmond, suspended operations last week for the winter, but those which kept on have suspended operations for the Christmas holidays, and it is very probable that none of them will commence again until the spring sets in.

House breaking is greatly on the increase in Richmond. Every night some of the citizens' houses are broken into and robbed of their contents; and, as for hen roosts, they stand no chance whatever.

A most diabolical attempt at murder and successful robbery, was perpetrated in Southampton, on Sunday night last, by a brutal black man, on the person of one of the clerks in Mr. Prestlow's store.

The stables of William L. Goggin, at Peakville, in Bedford county, were burned to the ground on Sunday night, with all their contents, consisting of a large amount of provender, harness, &c.

THE COTTON STATES.—The New York Herald speaks of having seen a private letter from Gen. Ord, in which he says that "the condition of affairs in the cotton States calls for the immediate attention of Congress; that a famine is already upon the negroes; that in many counties in his district the planters are removing their families from fear; that the whites are abandoning the rich cotton sections, where the blacks are largely in the majority; that these blacks, having nothing, or next to nothing, of their own, are living on the property of others and on what they can shoot in the woods or catch in the rivers or creeks; that he is daily in receipt of petitions for protection from towns and villages; but bread; that if Congress will employ these idle and destitute negroes and feed them for their work on the river levees, broken and destroyed during the war, or on railroads, canals, anything, a war of races may be prevented. He says, in effect, that in the cotton districts, with the failure of the staple as a compensating product, there are more negroes than can be sustained, and that something must be done for them."

The Herald is of opinion that the dreadful condition of affairs here depicted is not limited to Mississippi, but prevails, more or less, throughout the cotton States.

THE VALLEY BANK CASE.—Judge Parker has granted an injunction at the instance of P. Williams, who in his own right and as surviving partner of Barton & Williams, is a large creditor of the Bank—to restrain H. M. Brent, Trustee, under the deed, from transferring any of the funds or other property of the Bank into the hands of the Receiver, appointed by Judge Underwood. If the settlement of the accounts of the Bank is taken out of the hands of Mr. Brent and the Cashiers of the different Branches, who have been appointed his agents and who alone are familiar with the state of the accounts, great loss will fall upon all the creditors, except perhaps a few who are taking all the chances, as well in the State Courts as in the U. S. District Court, to obtain more than their rateable share of the assets.—Winchester Times.

ROBBERIES.—On Wednesday night last, some person or persons, entered the Pottery of Mr. Shafer, in Leesburg, and took from thence a loaded gun. From thence they proceeded to the Wagon Maker's Shop of Mr. R. C. Marlow, and gathered the tools into a basket, but left them behind. From there they went to a store belonging to Mrs. Poland, which they completely "gutted," carrying off some two hundred dollars worth of goods. From thence they visited a gentleman's barn near by, broke open the door, and supplied themselves with a couple of blankets, and some minor articles, probably to aid in removing their previously acquired store goods. The gun taken from Shafer's was left at Poland's.—Loudoun Mirror.

The Commercial supremacy of New York and the tendency of the times to consolidation and concentration have both been exemplified in a marked way recently by the movements of the inter-oceanic steamship lines. The three steamers which, not a great while ago, inaugurated, with considerable eclat, direct communication between Baltimore and Europe, are now quietly carrying freight between New York and Baltimore; while, last week the managers of the Cunard line decided to run no more of their steamers to or from Boston.

The Baltimore enterprise died so calmly and peacefully as to attract no attention, but the Bostonians will hardly give up so easily. The Cunard line was one of their pets, and they will not be likely to surrender it without a struggle.—Washington Star.

"OLD INHABITANT."—A correspondent at Hog Island Light Station, Virginia, informs us of the death of Mr. Jesse Fletcher, on the 16th instant, at the advanced age of one hundred and one years. The deceased was extensively known on the Eastern Shores of Maryland and Virginia. He was born on the island, where he always lived, and had not been on the main land for many years. During his long life he was never sick enough to require the services of a physician; seldom took a dose of any kind of medicine, and his mind continued vigorous and clear to the last.—Baltimore Sun.

DAMAGED.—Losses never come single-handed. Mr. J. G. Hunk, loses something by the cutting through of the "Wenonah" by ice, on her trip 10 days ago to Baltimore. A good deal of the Sumac he shipped was injured. We fear his loss by the recent spontaneous combustion of Sumac at his Tannery will be \$2,500 more than he was insured for. We understand that a further examination discloses heavy losses to R. T. Knox & Bro., in the Sumac stored. It had taken fire by spontaneous combustion, burned probably for a week or more, when the fire died out for want of air.—Fredericksburg Herald.

Letter from Loudoun County.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]
LEESBURG, VA., December 21, 1867.—The snow is fast disappearing under a mild rain, and the merry sleigh bells will soon cease their pleasant sound.

Large numbers of people were in town to-day on business and pleasure, many of them bringing in poultry, of the prices of which I only heard, that of hens dressed, namely 40 cents. Butter sells from the shops at about 45 cents, and the good things of this season seem greatly to abound. Pork \$7.50.

A fight between two youngsters this afternoon, in which John Barleymore was on one side and an abettor, enlivened the usual dull routine of village life. Blood was drawn on both sides, but neither was much injured. The police was conveniently not up to time.

At a sale of town lots to-day a lot opposite the Episcopal Church, without buildings or fences, 50x120 feet, sold for \$125, and another adjoining, but fronting 60 feet on Cornwall and 90 on Church street, sold for \$115. They belonged to the estate of Dr. Geo. Lee, and were both bought by white men. The stable with lot 60x90 was withdrawn, under a bid of \$321. I understand that there is plenty of money in the upper part of the county, but not for loan; those having it desiring investments in land. Whether this indicates a belief that lands will be lower, or is only an evidence that a man who wants to borrow money is considered entirely safe to lend to, I leave for the determination of time. I firmly believe that Loudoun lands are so desirable that they cannot fall much. The city people to be fed, and who demand to be fed luxuriously, is three times as great as it was in 1820 to 1825; and the facilities for getting all produce to market are so great that probably one-fourth more land can be cultivated with the same expenditure of merely animal labor. And, besides, the curse of slave labor is gone and gone forever, and intelligent white men working for themselves are adding to the productivity of the country.

By the way, allowing 5 persons to every registered voter among the negroes shows that since 1860 about 1500 negroes have disappeared from our county. The number of voters is 1,000, equal to 5,000 persons; whereas, in 1860 the number of free negroes and slaves was 6,600. Allowing that 50 have not registered, (a very large allowance by the way,) and here will be a loss of 1,250. What has become of them?

The white population seems to be stationary. The disappearance of 300 laborers and 300 more women servants, would seem to indicate that there ought to be room here for steady working men at fair wages, and such I believe to be the case.

Another sale of a farm of 182 acres at \$70.50 per acre shows the home valuation of our lands, and indicates their true value. This farm lies near Mercer's depot, and is a good barn, but very old log house. One of the farm who had lived on it for 70 years, bought it. ALIQUIS.

Letter from Fauquier.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]
WARREN GREEN HOTEL, WARRENTON, December 24.—I reached here yesterday, and have concluded to give you an item or two of what I have seen and heard in old Fauquier.

Quite a crowd was in attendance on court, last Monday, some attracted, I presume, by sales of lands, and a good many, no doubt, to see and talk with the delegates just returned from the convention. The tone of public opinion may be said to be generally more hopeful, since the meeting of the Conservative Convention in Richmond.

Having a few days of leisure, I left Alexandria in the cars of the Manassas Gap Railroad, to visit Linwood, the residence of my old friend Dr. A. S. Payne, having heard much lately of the natural curiosities to be seen there. Linwood is a sweet romantic place situated three miles from Markham Station, at the eastern base of the Blue Ridge mountains. It is difficult to describe its charms, and yet more difficult to make them known and felt by the aid of the pen; to impart to others the pleasure derived from the visit in which I explored the objects of natural curiosity and beauty. I was first impressed by the situation of the house, which stands upon an eminence of gently sloping ground, almost entirely inclosed within a beautiful glen—in front a meadow of soft velvety green, whose emerald down seems inviting the weary or the oppressed to tarry yet awhile. On every other side it is protected alike from the burning heat of summer and the strong blasts of winter, by grand old hills and noble forest trees. To look upon it as the morning sun gilds each hill and vale—all is bright and beautiful—you see the lovely and the sublime, the beauty and the majesty of earth mingled in sweetest harmony. You are fanned in summer by the most delightful mountain breeze; a few steps from the house is a spring of gurgling water delicious to the taste, and yet a few yards further the clear water of "Crooked Run" rushes on, as when it first listened to the Almighty's word. After enjoying the scenes immediately around the house, I took a path to the right, which brought me to the foot of a large hill: ascending this, I came at once upon an object of peculiarly startling interest; Here I saw a portion of the earth's history of itself, immense columns of marble stretching aloft their great bare arms—sometimes these columns shoot up in the form of immense crystals, with sharp angles heaped up and supported by each other; in another part vast and elevated masses, are crowned with circular summits which rise into the air with less boldness. Absorbed in the examination of this great natural curiosity, I followed the vein for more than a mile through large and beautiful groves of timber at the foot of which "Crooked Run" passes by. All along I found the same evidences of a pure and beautiful marble. Some of its sides are so rugged and precipitous as to produce on the mind almost all the picturesque effects of high mountains. A short distance from the point, where I found the first indications of marble, I came unexpectedly upon a large volume of water poured in an unbroken sheet over a great descent. It has often been remarked that there is a beauty, and a power, in falling water, felt by all who acknowledge any sympathy with nature—it will enliven the dulllest scenery, and certainly here it lends a charm to the loveliest. On every side threatening cliffs rear themselves like huge giants—the forests were boundless and deep, and everything seemed awed by the spell of stillness, broken alone by the ripples of this floating falling stream of brilliant so lovely that it can have no tale to tell of man. But enough for the present, I will let you hear from me at Fredericksburg, Yours, M. B. G.

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Military Commissioners.

Gen. Schofield has issued an order reorganizing the sub-districts in this State, and making new appointments. By this order, also, all officers of the Freedmen's Bureau now on duty as military commissioners are relieved. It is said, however, that they will be retained by the Bureau as civil officers until that institution expires by limitation on the 16th of July next.

The following is the arrangement for this sub-district:
SUB-DISTRICT OF ALEXANDRIA.
Major Joseph Stewart, Fourth United States Artillery, commanding. Headquarters—Alexandria, Virginia.

Eighteenth Division.—First Lieutenant W. H. Vinal, Eleventh United States Infantry—Orange, Culpeper, Madison, Green, Fauquier, and Rappahannock counties. Station—Culpeper Courthouse, Culpeper county.

Nineteenth Division.—Brevet Lieutenant Colonel S. P. Lee, United States Army, Captain Forty-fifth United States Infantry—Staff and Prince William, Loudoun, Fairfax, and Alexandria counties. Station—Alexandria, Va.

GOLD.

NEW YORK, December 26.—Gold to day 134 1/2.

MARRIED.

On Wednesday evening the 18th instant, at "Cool Spring," by Rev. Mr. Leavelle, Mr. L. E. WILLIAMS to Miss FLORA, daughter of the late Colonel Angus McDonald, both of Clarke county.

On Tuesday evening, 17th instant, at "Frankfort," the residence of the bride's father, by Rev. T. F. Martin, Colonel MARSHALL McDONALD, V.M.I., to Miss MARY E., daughter of Colonel F. McCormick, of Clarke co.

On the 19th of December, 1867, in the Episcopal Church, in Gordonsville, by the Rev. T. K. Dunn, Dr. BENJAMIN F. DUNN, of Louisa, to Miss HATTIE F. GRAVES, of Orange county, Va.

On Tuesday morning, at Hazel Hill, Fredericksburg, by the Rev. T. S. Dunaway, Rev. THOMAS HUME, pastor of the Cumberland street Baptist Church, Norfolk, and Miss LIZIE C., daughter of the late Carter M. Braxton, esq.

On the 17th instant, by the Rev. Mr. Wertenbagger, LEWIS S. ST. CLAIR, of St. Marks county, and Miss MARGARET D. BATEMAN, of Charles county, Md.

At "Overtown," the residence of the bride, on the 12th instant, by the Rev. George K. Warner, S. H. HACKETT, of North Carolina, and AMELIA, daughter of the late Hon. Augustus R. Sellers, of Calvert county, Md.

At the same time and place, by the Rev. Geo. K. Warner, Hon. DANIEL K. MAGUIRDER and Miss MARY SOLLERS, both of Calvert county, Md.

DIED.

At Newington, Fairfax county, Va., the residence of her late husband, on the 24th instant, Mrs. REBECCA NEVITT, aged 80 years, relict of the late Wm. Nevitt.

On the 9th of December, 1867, at the residence of her husband, in Clarke county, Va., a short but painful illness, Mrs. REBECCA LOCKE, aged 76 years.

In Shepherdstown, on Monday night last, J. T. McKEVITT, late President of the Board of Registration, of Jefferson county, aged about 27 years.

On Saturday last, near Marlboro', Prince George's county, Md., Mrs. SUSAN PLUMMER, wife of Morris S. Plummer, esq.

COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE IN ALEXANDRIA.—Pursuant to a decree of the Circuit Court of Alexandria co., in the case of Sophia R. Moore vs. Thomas McCormick and another, the undersigned, Commissioners, therein named, will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, in front of the Mayor's Office, at Alexandria, on the 17th DAY OF JANUARY, 1868, at 12 m., a LOT OF GROUND, with TWO FRAME HOUSES thereon, situated on the east side of Pitt street, between Cameron and Queen sts., fronting on Pitt street 36 feet, and extending back 110 feet to an alley, 14 feet 10 inches wide. The houses are numbered 43 and 47, respectively.

TERMS.—One tenth of the purchase-money in cash; the residue in three equal payments, at six, twelve and eighteen months; the deferred payments to be secured by the purchaser's notes, well endorsed, and a retention of the title to the said real estate until the whole of the purchase-money shall have been paid; the cash payments to be forfeited in case the purchaser fails to comply with the terms of sale. Stamps and cost of conveyance to be paid by purchaser.

D. J. SHERIDAN, Commissioner of Sale.